

- the flower-heads of Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium* L.) at the edge of a wood at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, on 21 June 1968.
- Empis* (*Lisempis*) *nigritaris* Mg. A distinctive species, glossy black with yellow legs. It was common on Wood Spurge at Black Cliff, Tintern, Mon., on 13 May 1967.
- E.* (*Xanthempis*) *punctata* Mg. Beaten from Sallow at Dylife, Montgomeryshire (alt. 1100 ft.), on 2 June 1966.
- E.* (*X.*) *lutea* Mg. A very yellow Empid, of which I took a male on flowers of *Clematis vitalba* L. in a roadside hedge at Felsted, North Essex, on 31 July 1963.
- E.* (*Kritempis*) *livida* L. Perhaps the commonest of the large Empids, but the following captures in little-worked counties may be worth recording: Rayne, North Essex, 10 June 1959; Epping Forest, South Essex, on Bramble, Creeping Thistle, Marsh Thistle, Hogweed and *Phragmites*, 1960-1965; Wellesbourne, Warwicks., plentiful on Ox-eye Daisy flowers, 21 June 1968.
- E.* (*Anacrostichus*) *verralli* Collin. I recorded this from Brecon in 1964 (*Ent. Record*, **77**: 110), and on 15 June 1968 I took a pair by sweeping grass, Bilberry and *Scirpus* at an altitude of 2600 ft. on Corn Du, in the Brecon Beacons.
- E.* (*E.*) *nuntia* Mg. Common on nettles by the Stort canal at Harlow, North Essex, on 7 May 1966.
- E.* (*E.*) *praevia* Collin. A female taken indoors at Loughton, South Essex, on 25 May 1964.
- Hilaria pilosa* Zett. Flying over a puddle in a ride in Salcey Forest, Northants, on 16 May 1965. Presumably a typical habitat, since Collin says "appears to be confined to well-wooded areas".
- H. thoracia* Macq. With its shining yellow thorax, this is one of the few distinctive species in this difficult genus. I took a male by the river Wye at Marteg Bridge, Radnor, on 16 June 1965.
- Westwood, Highwalls Avenue, Dinas Powis, Glam.

New Forest Mercury Vapour Light Records

By L. W. SIGGS

In 1968, the trap at Minstead was not run from 23rd June to 5th August and from 5th September to 10th November owing to my absence in hospital and subsequence convalescence. This affects the value of the comparisons which are the main purpose of the annual reports. However, sufficient remains to provide some interest to those who like to know how things are going in the New Forest.

The numbers of specimens recorded are as follows:—

	Nights	Total	Average
March	24	1772	74
April	27	2680	99
May	25	1253	50
June	19	3393	179
July	nil		
August	25	5799	232
September	14	1822	130
October	nil		
November	16	246	15

One's impression of 1968 has been a year of wet and cool weather inimical to moth trapping, but these figures compare well with those shown in the 1966 report.

The following have occurred in this trap for the first time:—

Anagoga pulveraria L.

Eupithecia valerianata Hubn.

In May 1968, Fletcher published an article showing the difference between *Amphipyra pyramidea* L. and *A. berbera* Rungs. Between 8th August and 9th September, 13 *pyramidea* were recorded and between 20th August and 14th September, 30 *berbera*. This brings the total number of species of macrolepidoptera recorded to 450.

Visitors which only occasionally appear and which turned up in 1968 were *Saturnia pavonia* L., *Chloroclystis debiliata* Hubn., *Apatele mega-cephala* Fab., *Hydrelia flammeolaria* Hufn. (2), *Dysstroma citrata* L., *Bapta bimaculata* Fab., *Moma alpium* Osbeck, *Selidosema brunnearia* Vill., *Pyrrhia umbra* Hufn. (7), *Apamea ypsillon* Borkh., *Zenobia retusa* L., *Trichiura crataegi* L., *Scopula promutata* Guen. (*marginipunctata* Goeze).

There was a record catch of a number of species and the records might have been more remarkable had the use of the trap been uninterrupted. They include *Lophopteryx capucina* L. (55), *Drepana falcata* L. (42), *Cosymbia punctaria* L. (35), *Colostygia pectinataria* Knoch. (52), *Rivula sericealis* Scop. (361), *Epirrhoe alternata* Mull. (149), *Amathes glareosa* Esp. (16), *Lithina chlorosata* Scop. (269), *Ceramica pisi* L. (329), *Xanthorhoë ferrugata* (163).

MIGRANTS.—*Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. (34), *Peridroma porphyrea* Schiff. (3), *Laphygma exigua* Hubn. (1), *Plusia gamma* L. (142), *Nycterosea obstipata* Fab. (1), *Nomophila noctuella* Schiff. (47), *Udea ferrugalis* Hubn. (5), *Plutella maculipennis* Curt. (7).

POLYMORPHISM

<i>Biston betularia</i> L	<i>Sterrrha aversata</i> L.
typical 97 (91%)	<i>remutata</i> 20.
<i>carbonaria</i> 1 (1%)	<i>aversata</i> 1.
<i>insularia</i> 9 (8%)	

Apamea crenata Hufn. Typical 10, *alopecurus* 1.

Ectropis biundularia Borkh. Typical 4, *melanic* 1.

Eilema griseola Hubn. Typical 9, *flava* 2.

The variation in the orbicular stigma of *Ochropleura plecta* L. was:— typical 936 (75%), club shaped 267 (21%), others 50 (4%).

On 13th September, *Pararge aegeria* L. was taken in the trap.

For 1968, I acted as recorder of specimens taken in a Rothamsted trap run by the Forestry Commission keeper at Linford, at the western end of the Forest. I am glad to record the following species which have not been taken at Minstead, *Sterrrha emarginata* L., *Apoda avellana* L. (2), and *Larentia clavaria* Haw. (2).

Sungate, Football Green, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hants.

REFERENCES

- Siggs, L. W. New Forest Mercury Vapour Light Records for 1966. *Ent. Rec.*, **79** : 144.
 Fletcher, D. S. (1968). *Ent. Gaz.*, **19** : 91.